

their more straightforward antagonists, have promoted the parliamentary success of the very objectionable measures which have now the force of law. It is to be noted that professional support to this "Public Health Act" came chiefly from the metropolis, which is *not* included in the general operation of the Act.

It is not for me to attribute unworthy motives to any public writers; but when they betray their own aspirations, by professing to regret that "many sanitary reformers who might have done good service should have put themselves out of court by their energetic opposition to the Government scheme", these writers hardly conceal their satisfaction that they have not put *themselves* thus "out of court", and that there is likely to be "a considerable augmentation of the inspectorial staff". Hence their pæans of exultation. While they tacitly pay a merited tribute to the disinterestedness, honesty, and independence of their opponents, they can descend to strengthen the vulgar prejudices of their lay readers by clap-trap sneers at a "State church of health and sanitary bishops".

In the face of this enactment, one is astounded at the audacity of the assumption, that "no English statesman would dare to introduce anything like central compulsion", when, in fact, the centralisation of force is the very mainspring of the now legalised machinery.

The medical-officer scheme of the Act of 1872 is, doubtless, in every sense, a great job, and we believe it will prove a *fiasco*. That Mr. Stansfeld looked very coldly and suspiciously on his own bantling, is shown by his ready acceptance of Colonel Barttelot's "five-years" clause, and by his admission that it might be found necessary to supersede those officers, and to appoint others over larger areas. *Our plan would have secured the services of both classes of officers permanently.*

In conclusion, I will venture to offer a bit of advice to those of my professional brethren, whether Union medical officers or not, who may have the fortune or misfortune of being appointed health-officers under Section 10 of the new Act.

"Consider, in the first place, your duties and interests as private practitioners. Your primary obligation is to your patients. Satisfy *them*; for from them, in most districts, you must look for nine-tenths of your income. If you have not ample private means, and are not independent of practice, be assured that your position in life, the maintenance of your families, as well as your professional usefulness and success, will all depend upon your making Therapeutics your chief concern. Carefully avoid poking your noses into your neighbours' sinks and dust-bins. Leave sewerage to the engineers, cess-pools to the surveyors, pigsties and stale fish to the nuisance-officers. Keep your test-tube and your microscope mainly for the diagnosis of disease. Take religious care never to carry infection from infected persons or places into private families. And, as to preventive medicine in general, remember Talleyrand's advice to an enthusiastic young official: *Surtout, point de zèle, mon ami.*"

I am, etc.,

August 31st, 1872

H. W. RUMSEY.

## OBITUARY.

ALFRED POLAND, F.R.C.S.,

SURGEON TO GUY'S HOSPITAL.

MR. ALFRED POLAND, the well-known surgeon, whose death was briefly alluded to in our last number, was a man of singular ability and industry, who acquired a reputation by his exertions as a teacher and as a hospital surgeon, far exceeding in popularity that worldly success which is commonly thought to be associated with an active professional life. As an articled pupil of the late Mr. Aston Key, Mr. Poland enjoyed those advantages of hospital practice which the custom of the time limited to a few favoured students; and in after years he frequently bore testimony to the privileges he thus obtained as the best educational training he received to enable him to enter on the higher duties of hos-

pital surgeon. Soon after he had finished his student's curriculum, he was appointed demonstrator of anatomy at Guy's Hospital, and obtained the fellowship of the College of Surgeons in 1847. In 1849 he was appointed assistant-surgeon to Guy's Hospital, and not long afterwards, on the death of Mr. Bransby Cooper, he was called on somewhat unexpectedly to deliver the course of lectures on Systematic Surgery, the synopsis of which he afterwards published, and which is remarkable for its methodical construction, and which may even at the present day be consulted as an admirable framework and guide for those engaged in similar prelections. In the year 1861 Mr. Poland was appointed to the office of surgeon to Guy's, with the general charge of the Ophthalmic department, on the retirement of Mr. France. He had previously paid considerable attention to Ophthalmic Surgery, and for some years was attached as surgeon to the hospital in Moorfields. On his appointment as full surgeon to Guy's, he, however, gradually gave up his ophthalmic practice, and devoted himself entirely to his purely surgical duties. During all this time, and in fact up to the period of his death, Mr. Poland was actively engaged in contributing numerous essays, on special surgical subjects, to the medical press, all bearing marks of great research and erudition combined with much practical skill and forethought. His professional pursuits and success in life were, however, sadly marred by failing health, induced, in the first instance, by purulent infection contracted in his hospital work, a subject on which he treated from personal experience in the article on "Animal Poisons," in Holmes's *System of Surgery*. His susceptibility to repeated attacks, originating as he believed from the same cause, disabled him at length from his more active duties; and about five years ago he was reluctantly compelled to relinquish his lectures on surgery, and to devote himself entirely to the work in the wards. During the last two years he had been suffering from chronic catarrh, and was forced, in consequence, to give up his consulting-rooms in the city, and retired to the house of his father, Sir Wm. Poland of Blackheath.

For a time the change appeared to benefit him greatly, the severe symptoms disappeared, and he spoke hopefully of the future, notwithstanding some severe domestic trials which embittered the latter years of his life. The improvement, however, was only temporary. During the summer months of the present year, the cough returned with increased violence; but he fought bravely on to the last, and may be said to have died in harness, as he saw his patients at the hospital for the last time on the 17th ult., devoting more than his usual time and care to the visit. He died on August 21st, at the age of fifty-one.

Before becoming a Fellow of the College of Surgeons, Mr. Poland had obtained an extraordinary premium of fifty guineas from the Council of the College for a dissertation on the "Nerves of the Orbit in Mammalia and Man"—the subject of the Collegiate Triennial Prize. In 1853, he obtained the Fothergillian Medal of the Medical Society of London for an essay on "Injuries and Wounds of the Abdomen," and in 1857 he gained the Jacksonian Prize of the College of Surgeons for his essay on "Gunshot Wounds and their Treatment." He was for some time editor of the *Guy's Hospital Reports*; and contributed numerous valuable articles to Holmes's *System of Surgery* and to the medical journals.

Mr. Poland was a man of retiring disposition and modest demeanour. His repeated attacks of illness affected his appearance, and made him look ten years older than he really was. He could scarcely be said to have done himself justice. His great hospital experience as a surgeon and as a teacher, and the reputation which he acquired as an expert and skilful operator, were in great measure confined to the hospital and to the pupils who had the good fortune to be more exclusively attached to him, and who always held him in the highest respect for his attention to their interests, and for the consideration and kindness with which he always treated them. In private life, he was a man of reserved thought and few words, strictly just and honourable in his dealings, and superior to the petty jealousies which unfortunately are not always inseparable from the character of men who could boast of a more favoured, although a less distinguished career.

FREDERICK CARPENTER SKEY, C.B., F.R.S., ETC.

MR. SKEY died at his residence in Mount Street, Grosvenor Square, on August 15th, in the seventy-third of his age. Having received an excellent preliminary education, the last year or two of which were spent at the University of Edinburgh, he became the pupil of John Abernethy, to whom he was articled at the Royal College of Surgeons on April 5th, 1816, on the payment of the usual premium of 500 guineas. He was admitted a member of the College on April 5th, 1822. He continued to remain with Mr. Abernethy, assisting him in his large practice, and receiving most substantial recognition of the

value of his services from the eccentric but kind-hearted surgeon, who, about the year 1826, appointed him Demonstrator of Anatomy at St. Bartholomew's. On the death of Mr. Abernethy, the Anatomical Lectures fell into the hands of a successor who claimed the emoluments of those given by Mr. Skey, in consequence of which he resigned, and, associating with him Drs. Todd, Hope, Marshall Hall, Pereira, and Mr. Kiernan (now the only survivor), established the Aldersgate Street School of Medicine. Here he lectured for ten years, his audience being largely increased by many of the St. Bartholomew's men, who preferred his lectures on surgery to those of Lawrence. About this time he was elected Surgeon to the Charterhouse. He was offered the appointment of Surgeon and Professor of Surgery at King's College on condition that he would resign them in three years. This he declined, and the negotiations fell to the ground. He was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1843; in 1848 he was returned by the Fellows to a seat in the Council, and in 1850 delivered the Hunterian Oration. Mr. Skey was in 1852 Professor of Human Anatomy and Surgery at the College. In 1855, he was elected a Member of the Court of Examiners, and in 1863 became President. In 1843, he was invited to return to St. Bartholomew's and accept the Chair of Anatomy, Mr. (afterwards Sir William) Lawrence retaining that of Surgery, and Mr. (now Sir James) Paget that of Physiology. It was not until after holding the appointment of Assistant-Surgeon for about a quarter of a century that he was elected full Surgeon, when, after nine years, he retired, having reached the age of sixty-five years.

On the formation of a Committee to inquire into the Prevention of Contagious Diseases in the Navy and Army, Mr. Skey was appointed Chairman, Mr. Spencer Smith, Surgeon to St. Mary's Hospital, another Member of the Council of the College of Surgeons, acting as Secretary. The result of the deliberations of the Committee, which sat for about eighteen months, was the passing of the Contagious Diseases Acts. For his valuable labours on this occasion Mr. Skey obtained the honour of C.B.

Mr. Skey was a valuable contributor to the advancement of professional knowledge, and a paper on Muscular Fibre, published in the *Transactions* of the Royal Society, obtained for him the Fellowship. He was the author of works on *The Venereal Disease, on Operative Surgery, and on Hysteria*. He published also Lectures on the *Prevalent Treatment of Disease*, and on the *Relative Merits of the two Operations for Stone*. He was also a frequent writer in the medical and other journals.

The immediate cause of death was ulceration of the intestines; and at the close, when the pain was excessive, he bore it with indomitable courage, supported by the presence of all his family, with the exception of one son, who had to join his regiment a few hours before the close of his father's career.

#### ROBERT WINSTANLEY, M.R.C.S., WIGAN.

THE late Robert Winstanley, whose death occurred on August 17th, was born in the neighbourhood of Wigan, and received his medical education first with Dr. Latham, of that town, and subsequently at Glasgow, Edinburgh, and King's College, London. He became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and a licentiate of the Apothecaries' Hall, in 1857. He practised in Wigan, where he held several public appointments, and where, by his genial disposition and affable manner, he gained the esteem of a large circle of acquaintance. Failing health obliged him, in 1869, to give up his profession, and to seek for a more suitable climate abroad; but his disease (phthisis) had made such progress that the benefit he derived was but temporary. The immediate cause of death was hæmorrhage from the rupture of a blood-vessel in the lungs. He was in the thirty-ninth year of his age, and unmarried.

#### THOMAS BALLE FORSTER, M.D., R.N.

DR. THOMAS B. FORSTER died at Plymouth on August 20th, aged 47. He entered the Royal Navy as an assistant-surgeon in October 1847, and served on the Pacific Station successively in Her Majesty's ships *Asia*, *Nereus*, and *Dodatus*, until September 1851, when he joined Her Majesty's ship *Plover*, at that time engaged in arctic service. On his arrival in England, he volunteered to return to Behring's Straits, and was appointed to Her Majesty's ship *Rattlesnake*, to which ship he was attached for upwards of three years. In April 1857, he was appointed assistant-surgeon of Her Majesty's Dockyard at Keyham, Devonport, which position he held until March 1870, when he retired from active service.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

**APOTHECARIES' HALL.**—The following gentlemen passed their examination in the science and practice of medicine, and received certificates to practise, on Thursday, August 29th, 1872.

Blake, John French, Galway, Ireland  
Eagar, Robert Taylor Sumner, Sheffield  
Paterson, Robert Haldane, Brigg, Lincolnshire  
Waghorn, Albert Richard, Anerley

The following gentlemen also on the same day passed their primary professional examination.

Highton, Thomas, St. Thomas's Hospital  
Knowles, Edmund, St. Mary's Hospital  
Squire, William, St. Bartholomew's Hospital  
Travers, Otho Robert, Guy's Hospital

#### MEDICAL VACANCIES.

THE following vacancies are announced:—

**ALDERBURY UNION**, Wilts.—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for District No. 3: £120 per annum, and extra fees.  
**ALVERSTOCK UNION**—Medical Officer for the Town District: £90 per annum, and extra fees.  
**DONEGAL UNION**—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Dunkineely Dispensary District: £100 per annum, and fees.  
**EVESHAM UNION**, Worcestershire.—Medical Officer for the Workhouse: £30 per annum, and midwifery fees.—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for District No. 1: £52 per annum, and extra fees.—Medical Officer and Public Vaccinator for District No. 2: £50 per annum, and extra fees.  
**GENERAL HOSPITAL**, Birmingham.—Assistant Dispenser.  
**HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN**, Vincent Square.—Consulting-Physician.  
**LANCASTER INFIRMARY**—House-Surgeon: £100 per annum, apartments, coal, gas, and attendance.  
**LIMERICK UNION**, co. Limerick.—Medical Officer, Public Vaccinator, and Registrar of Births, etc., for the Annacotty Dispensary District: £100 per annum, and fees.  
**LIVERPOOL DISPENSARIES**—Medical Officer to the East Dispensary.  
**LLANELLY**, Carmarthenshire.—Certifying Factory Surgeon.—Surgeon to the Llanelly Tin Plate Works, the Old Castle Works, and the Pottery Works.  
**MEATH INFIRMARY**, Navan.—Apothecary, Secretary, and Registrar.  
**METROPOLITAN DISPENSARY AND CHARITABLE FUND**, Fore Street, Cripplegate.—Physician.  
**MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL MEDICAL COLLEGE**—Two Entrance Scholarships: £25 and £20 per annum, for two years.  
**PLYMOUTH**, Pride of Devon Lodge of Odd Fellows.—Surgeon.  
**SALFORD AND PENDLETON ROYAL HOSPITAL and DISPENSARY**—District Surgeon: £80 per annum, board and lodging.  
**ST. GEORGE**, Hanover Square.—Medical Officer of Health: £350 per annum.  
**ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL MEDICAL SCHOOL**—Scholarship: £40 per annum for three years.—Exhibition: £20 for one year.  
**SUFFOLK GENERAL HOSPITAL**, Bury St. Edmunds.—Physician.  
**SUSSEX COUNTY HOSPITAL**—House-Surgeon: £80 a year, with £10 a year from each resident pupil, board, and residence.  
**TRINITY COLLEGE**, Dublin.—Professor of Anatomy and Chirurgery: £200 per annum, and fees.  
**WESTMINSTER GENERAL DISPENSARY**, Gerrard Street.—Physician.

#### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

The charge for inserting announcements of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, is 3s. 6d., which should be forwarded in stamps with the communication.

##### BIRTH.

COATHUPE.—On August 30th, at Manchester, the wife of \*Edwin Wise Coathupe, Esq., Surgeon, of a daughter.

COMMUNICATIONS, LETTERS, ETC., have been received from:—

The Rev. Dr. Haughton, Dublin; Dr. Rumsey, Cheltenham; Dr. Leared, London; Mr. Solomon, Birmingham; Dr. Parsons, Dover; Dr. Drysdale, London; Dr. Morell Mackenzie, London; Dr. A. Edis, London; Dr. J. W. Eastwood, Darlington; Dr. E. T. Wilson, Cheltenham; Mr. J. W. Groves, London; Mr. J. W. Langmore, London; Mr. Henry Morris, London; Mr. Lettiss, Great Yarmouth; Mr. Forster, Plymouth; Mr. F. Owen, Leatherhead; Dr. Frederick J. Brown, Rochester; Dr. Cordwint, Taunton; Dr. Roden, Kidderminster; Mr. Dickinson, Cannes; Dr. Heywood Smith, London; Dr. Rushton Parker, Liverpool; Dr. Philipson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Mr. Beardsley, Grange-on-Sands; The Registrar-General of England; The Secretary of Apothecaries' Hall; The Registrar-General of Ireland; Mr. T. M. Stone, London; The Registrar of the Medical Society of London; Mr. E. Robinson, Leeds; B. B. B.; Mr. Lawson Tait, Birmingham; Dr. Samelson, Manchester; Mr. J. Hughes, Middlewich; An Associate; Mr. Henry Arnott, London; Mr. Martin, Evesham; Mr. Pearce, Wellington; Dr. T. Ballard, London; Dr. Marsillach y Parera, Barcelona; Dr. Taylor, Nottingham; Dr. J. C. Murray, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Dr. Steele, London; Mr. Longmore, Netley; Dr. Charles Creighton, London; Dr. Guy, London; Mr. Bryden, Uffculme; Dr. Moxey, Tottenham; Mr. Spurrier, Birch Hall; Dr. Trollope, St. Leonards-on-Sea; Mr. Bradley, Manchester; Mr. Hewitt, Manchester; Mr. Slaytor, Newton Abbott; Dr. Taylor, Nottingham; Mr. F. Workman, Reading; etc.